

STATE OF WISCONSIN Division of Hearings and Appeals

In the Matter of

DECISION
FOP/169900

PRELIMINARY RECITALS

Pursuant to a petition filed November 04, 2015, under Wis. Admin. Code §HA 3.03, to review a decision by the Dane County Department of Human Services in regard to FoodShare benefits (FS), a hearing was held on January 19, 2016, at Madison, Wisconsin.

The issue for determination is whether the agency correctly determined petitioner's liability for a \$3,855 FS overissuance.

There appeared at that time and place the following persons:

PARTIES IN INTEREST:

Petitioner:



Respondent:

Department of Health Services 1 West Wilson Street, Room 651 Madison, Wisconsin 53703

By:

Dane County Department of Human Services 1819 Aberg Avenue Suite D Madison, WI 53704-6343

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

John P. Tedesco Division of Hearings and Appeals

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The petitioner (CARES #) is a resident of Dodge County.
- 2. The petitioner was the case head of a FS case.

- 3. In 2014, petitioner was employed at _______ The agency worker made an error in inputting the income data and incorrectly stated the income as bi-weekly instead of weekly. This resulted in the income budgeted to petitioner being half of what it actually was.
- 4. The agency recently discovered the error. The agency issued an overpayment notice dated 9/10/15 indicating an overpayment of \$3,855 from 6/6/14 to 5/31/15.
- 5. Petitioner appealed.

DISCUSSION

The petitioner was an ongoing FoodShare recipient. From June 2014 to May 2015, the county agency used a reduced household income because it failed to budget the amount petitioner was actually receiving. This error caused him to receive \$3,855 more in FoodShare benefits than he was entitled to during this period. He does not challenge the agency's calculations but believes it is unfair to recover an overpayment that occurred because of its error after he correctly reported his income.

I understand his argument, but federal regulations require state agencies to "establish a claim against any household that has received more [FoodShare] benefits than it is entitled to receive." 7 CFR § 273.18(a). This regulation requires the agency to recover all FoodShare overpayments regardless of whose error caused the overpayment. He clearly received more FoodShare than he was entitled to. As a result he must repay this overpayment even though it did not occur because of his fault.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The county agency correctly seeks to recover an overpayment of FoodShare that occurred because of the agency's error.

THEREFORE, it is

ORDERED

The petitioner's appeal is dismissed.

REQUEST FOR A REHEARING

You may request a rehearing if you think this decision is based on a serious mistake in the facts or the law or if you have found new evidence that would change the decision. Your request must be **received** within 20 days after the date of this decision. Late requests cannot be granted.

Send your request for rehearing in writing to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, 5005 University Avenue, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53705-5400 **and** to those identified in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST." Your rehearing request must explain what mistake the Administrative Law Judge made and why it is important or you must describe your new evidence and explain why you did not have it at your first hearing. If your request does not explain these things, it will be denied.

The process for requesting a rehearing may be found at Wis. Stat. § 227.49. A copy of the statutes may be found online or at your local library or courthouse.

APPEAL TO COURT

You may also appeal this decision to Circuit Court in the county where you live. Appeals must be filed with the Court **and** served either personally or by certified mail on the Secretary of the Department of Health Services, 1 West Wilson Street, Room 651, Madison, Wisconsin 53703, **and** on those identified in

FOP/169900

this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST" **no more than 30 days after the date of this decision** or 30 days after a denial of a timely rehearing (if you request one).

The process for Circuit Court Appeals may be found at Wis. Stat. §§ 227.52 and 227.53. A copy of the statutes may be found online or at your local library or courthouse.

Given under my hand at the City of Madison, Wisconsin, this 21st day of January, 2016

\sJohn P. Tedesco Administrative Law Judge Division of Hearings and Appeals



State of Wisconsin\DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

Brian Hayes, Administrator Suite 201 5005 University Avenue Madison, WI 53705-5400 Telephone: (608) 266-3096 FAX: (608) 264-9885 email: DHAmail@wisconsin.gov Internet: http://dha.state.wi.us

The preceding decision was sent to the following parties on January 21, 2016.

Dane County Department of Human Services
Public Assistance Collection Unit
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability